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HERON AND IRIS. FROM A JAPANESE PRINT BY SUGAKUDŌ

Ever Beyond

BY JOSEPH AUSLANDER

Shimmering shoreward, plumage a dizzy dew
 Against the dusk, a heron plunges through
 Into the long wild water-grass, to rest
 Wings upon breast.

Only a pause from joy to joy, and then
 Out in the twilight-flooded space again,
 Flashing beyond old barriers, ever beyond
 Runnel and pond.

There is no end to Beauty, no repose
 For the high heart that hungers to the close:
 And the magnificent wings renew their flight
 Into the night!